

S/N 10/781,970

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: William James Griffin et al. Examiner: Omar R. Abdul-Ali
Application No.: 10/781,970 Group Art Unit: 2178
Filed: February 18, 2004 Docket No.: 50037.240US01
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A PORTAL

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Examiner Omar R. Abdul-Ali
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of August 20, 2007, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

Listing of claims:

- 1 (currently amended): A method for managing a portal, comprising:
selecting an element from a navigational hierarchy, the selected element being associated with a location accessible from the portal, the navigational hierarchy being identified with metadata in a database;
selecting, at an interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element, an interaction to be performed on the selected element;
retrieving metadata associated with the selected interaction and the selected element; when the interaction selected at the interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action; and
accessing the location from the portal in response to selection of a feature associated with the interaction when the interaction does not correspond to an action.
- 2 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the element is at least one of an area, a subarea, a listing, an intranet site, and an extranet site.
- 3 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the element comprises a listing, and wherein the listing is arranged to provide access to at least one of a link, a resource and a page from the portal.
- 4 (original): The method of Claim 3, wherein the listing is arranged to provide access to at least one of the link, the resource, and the page external to the portal.
- 5 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the feature is at least one of a link, a resource and a page.

6 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the navigational hierarchy in accordance with the updated metadata.

7 (original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising authorizing user access to the element in the navigational hierarchy.

8 (original): The method of Claim 7, further comprising displaying the element in the navigational hierarchy that a user is authorized to access.

9 (original): The method of Claim 7, further comprising inheriting user authorization to access the element from a parent element, wherein metadata identifies the parent element and the inherited user authorization.

10 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the element and selecting the action is performed using a web browser.

11 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the selecting the element and selecting the action is performed by a direct link provided in a uniform resource locator in a web browser.

12 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises adding an element to the navigational hierarchy.

13 (original): The method of Claim 12, wherein adding the element further comprises adding an element to the navigational hierarchy at a pre-assigned time.

14 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises removing an element from the navigational hierarchy.

15 (original): The method of Claim 14, wherein removing the element further comprises removing the element from the navigational hierarchy at a pre-assigned time.

16 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises filtering the element.

17 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises storing a subset of the retrieved metadata in a cache.

18 (original): The method of Claim 17, wherein retrieving metadata comprises retrieving metadata associated with the element from the cache.

19 (original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing subareas and listings associated with a currently selected element in a cache.

20 (original): The method of Claim 19, further comprising retrieving the subareas and listings that a user is authorized to access from the cache.

21 (currently amended): A system for managing a portal, comprising:
a portal manager comprising an element database, the element database storing metadata associated with elements accessible from the portal; and
a user interface in communication with the portal manager for modifying metadata associated with the elements and accessing locations associated with the elements, the user interface displaying a navigational hierarchy of the elements accessible from the portal and displaying information associated with the elements when they are accessed from the portal, wherein the navigational hierarchy of the elements is arranged in accordance with metadata in the element database, and wherein the user interface allows a user to edit the metadata associated with the elements.

22 (original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the element database comprises an area database and a listing database, the area database storing metadata associated with areas accessible in the portal, the listing database storing metadata associated with links accessible from the portal.

23 (original): The system of Claim 22, wherein the portal manager further comprises an area cache and a listing cache, the area cache storing a subset of metadata retrieved from the area database, the listing cache storing a subset of metadata retrieved from the listing database.

24 (original): The system of Claim 23, wherein metadata associated with the element is retrieved from the area cache and the listing cache.

25 (original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the portal manager further comprises a security module, wherein the security module is configured to:

identify a user requesting access; and
authenticate access to at least one of an element and metadata based on the identified user.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 20, 2007 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-25 are rejected. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended. For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 21 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Poulsen (US 7,062,511). Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKay (US 2003/Q217111) in view of Poulsen (US 7,062,511). The Applicants respectfully disagree but have amended the independent claims to more clearly define the invention.

As amended, Claim 1 recites in part "selecting, at an interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element, an interaction to be performed on the selected element" and "when the interaction selected at the interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action." In contrast, neither McKay nor Poulsen teach an interface that allows a user to edit elements that are accessible from the interface and browsing the locations associated with the elements.

For example, page 12, paragraph 123 of McKay teaches an interface that allows a user to locate an element by assisting the user in narrowing a search. McKay does not teach that

metadata associated with an element is modified. Instead, McKay teaches only that an element matching search criteria be returned, rather than modified. Additionally, page 8, paragraph 96 of McKay teaches that the portal may be operated in a personal manner based on a schema table. McKay, however, does not teach that the schema table may be modified by the user browsing through the portal.

As stated on page 4 of the Office Action “McKay does not explicitly disclose when the interaction corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action” Thus, McKay makes no teaching that when the interaction selected at the interface for ***modifying metadata*** associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and ***updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action.***

Poulsen does not remedy the deficiencies of McKay. Poulsen makes no teaching of retrieving metadata associated with a selected element at ***an interface that is used for both modifying content in a portal and browsing content in that portal.*** Accordingly, Poulsen makes no teaching of selecting an element from a navigational hierarchy when browsing the portal. Poulsen teaches only “[a] portal web site development system for generating portal web sites.” Rather than teaching a portal that allows a user to browse information presented though a portal by selecting a navigational element, Poulsen teaches only the system for development the website. As shown in Figures 4A-4I, Poulsen teaches a step-by-step interface that allows a user to enter the information needed to create a portal.

Since none of the cited references teach that selecting, at an interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element, an interaction to be performed on the selected element and when the interaction selected at the interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action, Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable. Claims 2-20 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

As amended, Claim 21 recites in part a “a user interface in communication with the portal manager for modifying metadata associated with the elements and accessing locations associated with the elements, the user interface displaying a navigational hierarchy of the elements accessible from the portal and displaying information associated with the elements when they are accessed from the portal, wherein the navigational hierarchy of the elements is arranged in accordance with metadata in the element database, and wherein the user interface allows a user to edit the metadata associated with the elements.” For at least the reasons presented above, Claim 21 is proposed to be allowable. Claims 21-25 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

Conclusion

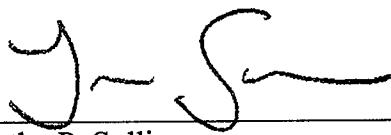
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application,

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the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Timothy P. Sullivan
Registration No. 47,981
Direct Dial: 206.342.6254

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

